

EDITORIAL

## MARSHALL'S HOME COUNTY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**V**ICE-PRESIDENT Marshall's April 12 speech in New York, quickly followed by the hits-back with which he met his critics, may be boiled down to this passage:

“One man in my State told me that he had \$100,000 and was about to set up in a business that was controlled largely by a Trust and that he was warned not to proceed. He had figured out the amount that would be needed for his plant, how much his raw material would cost, and what labor could be had. One of his own friends told him he had better not go on; the Trust would drive him out of business.”

He who runs should be able to read the motto that blinks upon the Vice-President's economic and sociologic tenets, as condensed in the passage just quoted.—“At war with Progress and the Conditions that make for Progress.”

The Indiana man whom the Vice-President has in mind was the possessor of \$100,000—an amount larger by a good deal than the capital, or wealth, owned by the large majority of our people. If even \$100,000 will no longer buy safe admittance to the competitive field, \$50,000 will be less able to do so; and no capital at all must leave the holder of the nothingness outside of the tent, so far outside that he cannot even peep through a little hole into the circus.

In the second place, the social system which the Vice-President has in his mind's eye would, at best, send production back to the days of small production with the inevitable accompaniment of an output far below the volume requisite for universal economic wellbeing.

Construing the two facts together, the Vice-President has inserted himself between the Upper and the Nether millstone of Society.

The Top-Capitalist holds the present possibilities for the volume of wealth out-

put that civilized life requires. The concentrated large productive facilities of the Top-Capitalist the Vice-President would destroy. Personal self-protection summons the Top-Capitalist to get busy against the Vice-President.

The Working Class—the class which suffers most from the autocracy of the Top-Capitalist—the class that would have a certain point of contact with the Vice-President in that it also threatens the existence of Top-Capitalism, but which would save the Top-Capitalist's concentrated productive facilities—that Class the Vice-President alienates and repels by ignoring.

The modern forces that make for progress are:—

Top-Capitalism, which, altho' it turns large production into a curse to humanity, has rendered universal wellbeing possible by bringing large production into being; and

The Working Class, whose Class interests dictate the saving of large production, and the freeing of the same from the cause of its being a scourge, instead of a blessing, to wit, its private ownership.

Between the Upper millstone of the Top-Capitalist, and the Nether millstone of the Working Class—the two being the modern social forces that make for progress—Vice-President Marshall has deftly inserted himself.

Will our Hoosier Vice-President in time discover the pickle he has got himself into, and pull from between, and avoid being ground to dust?

Or will he approve himself a traveler from Posey County, Indiana's proverbial home of the dull, the backward, the moss-back?

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)